

ART ON THE HILL

September 2011, Issue 2



Welcome to the second issue of *Art on the Hill*. Our town is full of so many creative and talented people. I hope this newsletter will help you support the arts simply by getting out and enjoying the events that are happening every week.

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A Walk in the Woods

A thick layer of ash from the Los Conchas Fire fell into Tim Athauser's yard while he painted aspens for his first solo exhibition, "A Walk in the Woods."



"What hurts me is that it shouldn't have happened," said Althausser, who started painting after a twenty-year career cutting timber in the mountains and building log cabins. His experience as a logger taught him that the forest should be used, but it also needs to be treated well.

"I cut some trees down that I wish that I had never cut," said Althausser. "But I worked with an older forest service guy named Clyde Porter. If I wanted to leave a tree with a mark on it because it was a perfect tree, he would let me leave it."

When Tim's wife, Loretta, saw that he was teaching himself to paint, she convinced him to quit his job and paint trees.

Last summer, as countless trees were burning in the fire, Althausser found deeper meaning in painting



aspens. "Aspens are the rebirth tree. They make shade for the conifers and the pine to grow. Aspens are the forest renewal tree, and the first tree to come in after a fire. To me it's the birth of a forest when baby aspens come up.

"This show is about being at peace in the woods. Being able to experience what is there with reverence. I'm not a religious man, but when you go to the woods and hear silence.... my paintings reflect that peaceful feeling."

▲ At the Karen Wray Fine Art Gallery, 2101 Trinity Dr.

Ursonate:
A Sound Visualization Painting
by Jack Ox

On Friday, September 16th, from 4–5:30 p.m., the Mesa Public Library will host a reception for *Ursonate* in the upstairs gallery. This art exhibit will be on display through October 27th. On Saturday, September 17th, at 2:00 p.m., Kristen Loree will do a sound vocalization performance of *Ursonate* at the Bradbury Science Museum.

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Inspiration and Perspiration

An authors symposium on creativity

This special Authors Speak event, funded by the Friends of the Los Alamos County Library, will take place in the Upstairs Rotunda of the Mesa Public Library on Thursday, September 22, at 7:00 p.m. Speakers include Shirley Raye Redmond, Robert Benjamin, Jane Lin, and Steven Gould.

▲For more information on library events, call 662-8240.

MUERTO

Death. Is it an ending or merely a rest stop on a greater journey? A time to mourn or to celebrate? Artists working in all media will weigh in at the *Muerto* exhibit at the Fuller Lodge Art Gallery. Opening reception Friday, September 23, 5–7 p.m.



HONK!

From September 30–October 3, a few members of the Hill Stompers are going to join their “mother band,” the Seed & Feed Marching Abominable (from Atlanta) at the sixth annual HONK! Festival of activist street bands in Davis Square, Somerville, MA.

Kandice Favorite says, “We like going to hear other bands like us and see what they do. It’s fun to be surrounded by Hill-Stomper-like bands for a weekend!”

What is your art worth?

Does that question make you uncomfortable?

Creating art is so personal; things can get a little touchy when it’s time to attach a price tag. However you feel about it, choosing those numbers may be the most important decision you can make as an artist. It can determine who will buy the work and what your income will be. It can even influence your feelings of self-worth.

Umi Raby, whose exhibit *Emotional Quilt* is at Fuller Lodge, made some pricing decisions that made a lot of business sense.

Her paintings are worth thousands of dollars, but everyone who walked into the gallery could afford to walk away with something. That’s because she had several smaller

paintings that had lower price points. There was a cluster of paintings for under \$300 and another for under \$100.

Successful business owners routinely make a special effort to gain new customers by creating “front end” and “back end” products. Once your customer has bought something it’s much easier to make the next (maybe even more lucrative) sale because they have gotten to know and like you. A person who bought a small Umi Raby painting may be thrilled because it’s their first original painting (a momentous occasion for any art collector).

So my question is, when you look at your work, what is your “front end” product that brings new collectors in?

▲Send your examples to email@mandymarksteiner.com

MUSIC EVENTS

September 15

Fuller Lodge

Guitarist Sandy Hoffman will perform at the Fuller Lodge at 7:00 p.m.

September 16

Ashley Pond

Ryan McGarvey will play at Ashley Pond at 7:00 p.m. for the LA Summer Concert Series.

September 23

The Coffee House Cafe

The Jazz Paradoxs will play at 6:00 p.m.

September 24

Parjarito Ski Area

Ullr Fest at Pajarito Ski Area. Enjoy biking, hiking, live music, and beer from some of the best breweries in New Mexico.

September 25

Duane Smith Auditorium

Eliot Fisk will perform at Duane Smith Auditorium at 4:00 p.m. LACA now offers online ticket sales at losalamosconcert.org/tickets.

October 15

Crossroads Bible Church

Los Alamos Community Winds Concert with guest conductor Dr. William Carson. Sponsored by LANB.